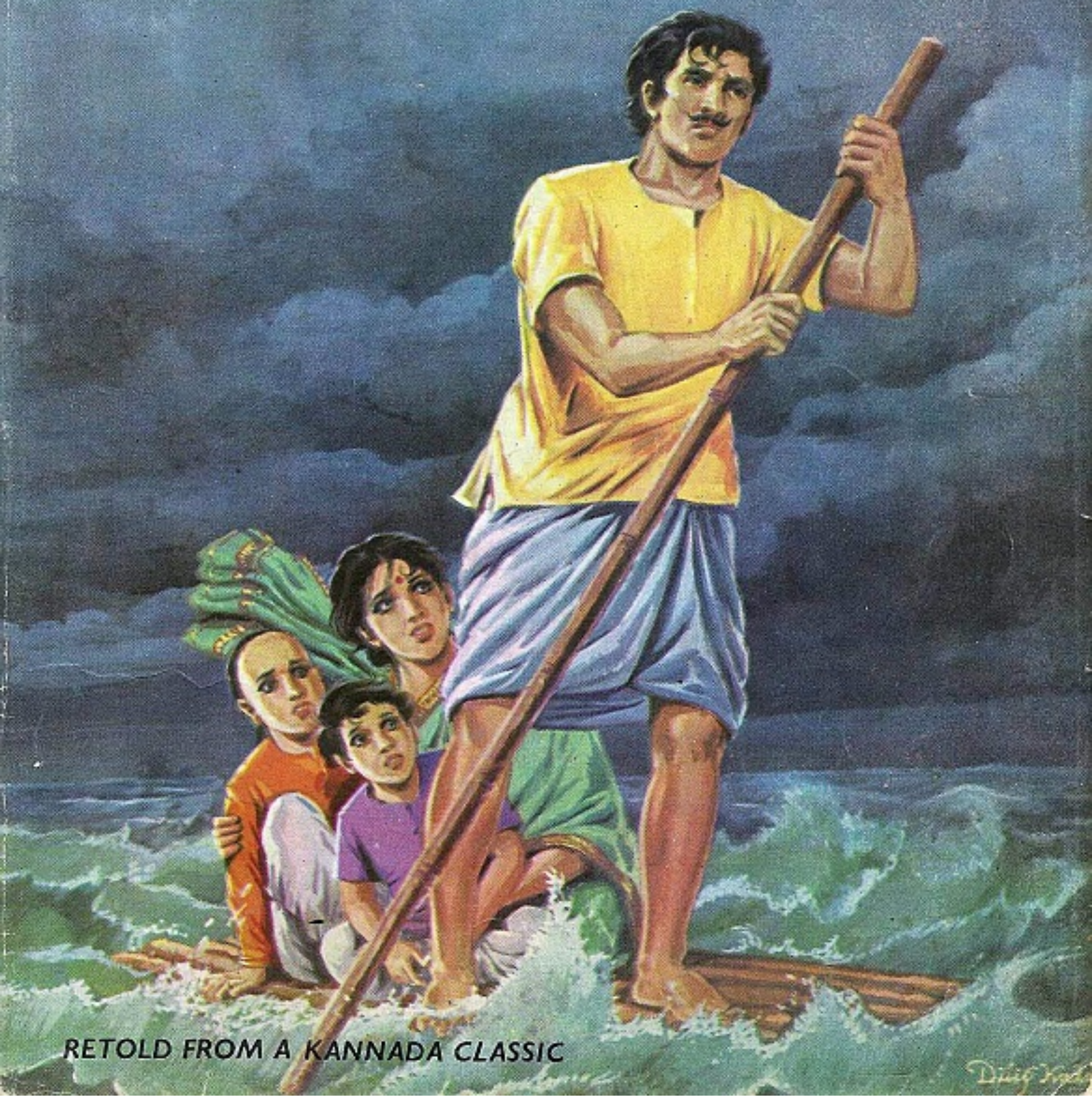




No. 282 Rs. 3.50

The taming of Gulla



RETOLD FROM A KANNADA CLASSIC

Dalit Singh

Where people live, work and play together, be it in the family, the school, the office, the village or the country, there are bound to be differences. The wise ones overcome the differences, learn to give and take and to live in harmony. But not all are wise. So, very often, petty quarrels are blown out of proportion and pursued indefinitely. One party tries to destroy another and eventually both pay a heavy price.

This is the theme of the story retold in this Chitra Katha. It is a true story which took place over sixty years ago. The descendants of Ayyu and Gulla continue to live at Jalahalli.

ಗೌರವ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿ ಪ್ರಶಸ್ತಿ
 ಸದ/-

Gorur Ramaswami Iyengar

Shri Gorur Ramaswami Iyengar (1904-), a recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award is a distinguished Kannada author. He has to his credit over fifty works. They include short stories, novels and folklore. This Amar Chitra Katha is an adaptation of 'Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu', which has become something of a classic.

Editor

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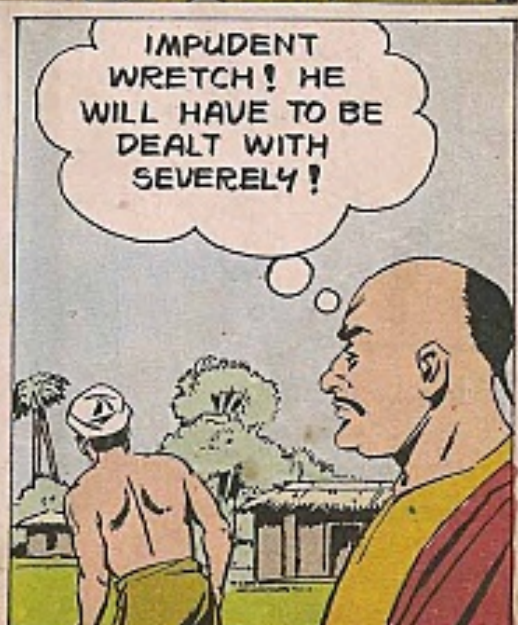
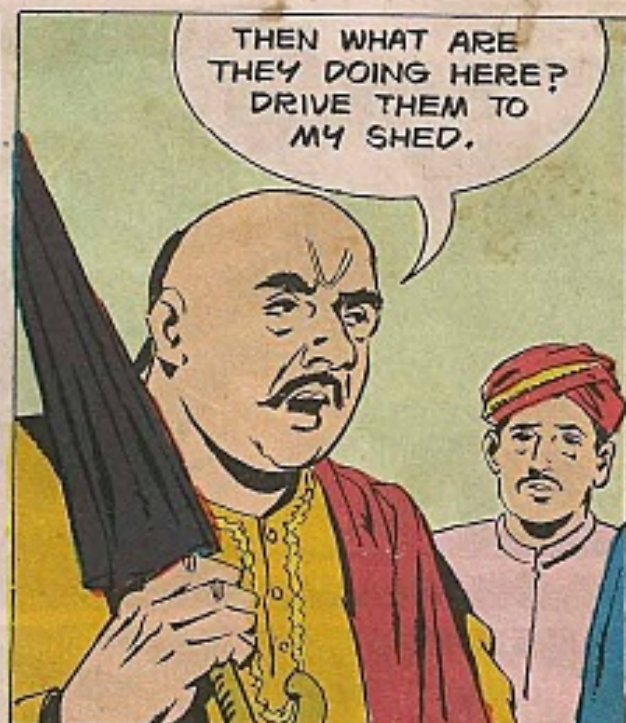
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THE TAMING OF GULLA

BHOOTAYYA, THE SAHUKAR OF JALAHALLI, WAS A MERCILESS TYRANT.



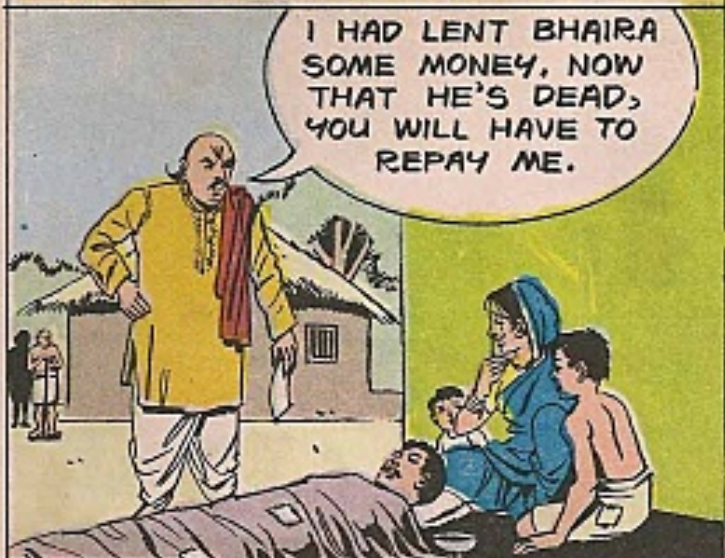
THAT NIGHT —



A FEW DAYS LATER —



A FEW MONTHS LATER BHAIRA FELL ILL AND DIED. HIS WIDOW HAD A VISITOR.



I'M SORRY, SIR. I DON'T HAVE EVEN A COWRIE.

THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP THIS HUT AND ALSO SURRENDER YOUR LAND.



A FEW MILES FROM THE VILLAGE THERE WAS A TRACT OF FERTILE LAND. ONE DAY AS BHOOTAYYA WAS WALKING THROUGH IT WITH HIS SON AYYU—

IT'S A PITY THAT SUCH RICH SOIL IS GOING WASTE. WE COULD RAISE CROPS HERE, ALL THE YEAR ROUND! WHY HAS NO ONE THOUGHT ABOUT IT?

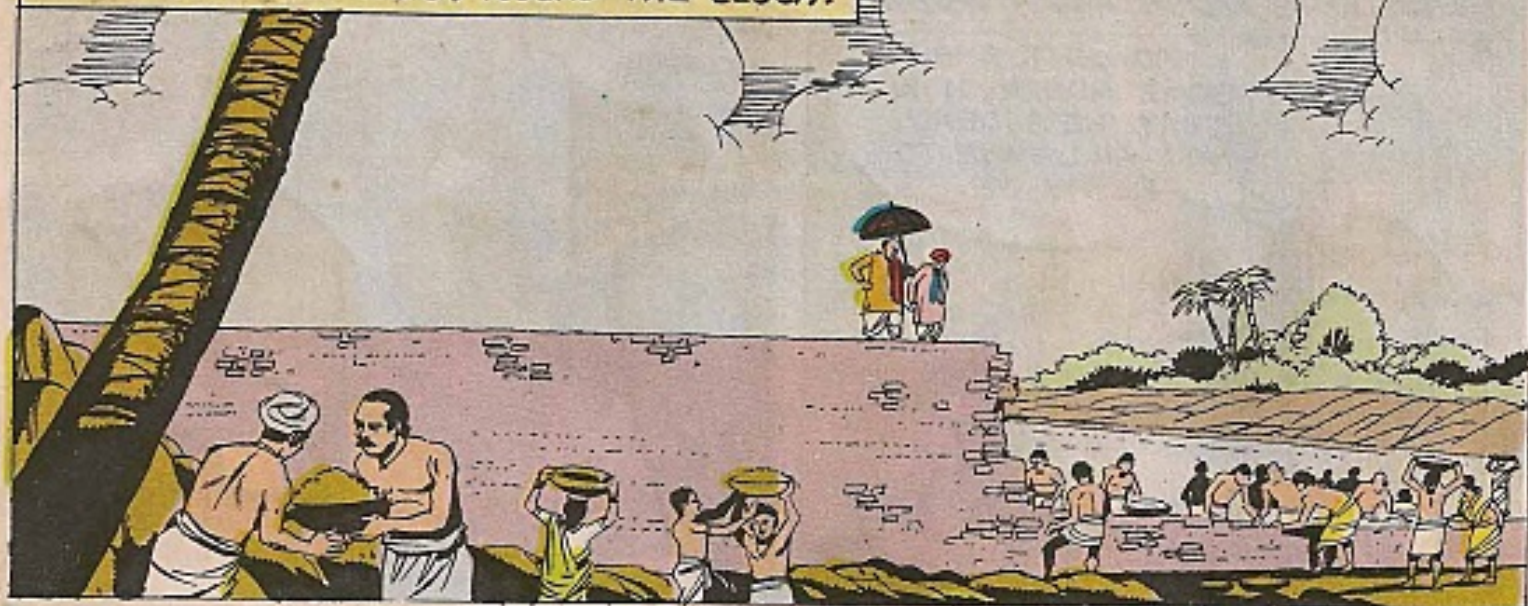


THE LAND GETS FLOODED DURING THE MONSOONS WHEN THE RIVER IS IN SPATE, FATHER.

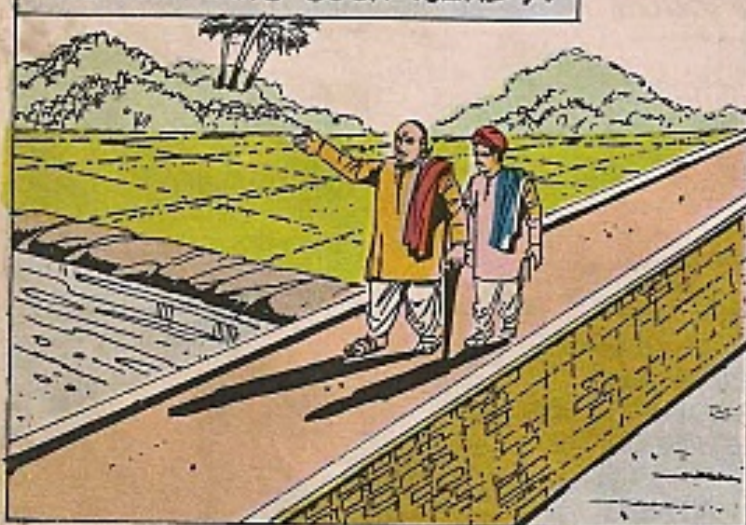
THAT'S NO EXCUSE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BUILD A DAM THERE, AND LABOUR, AS YOU KNOW, COMES FREE.



THE VILLAGERS WERE ORDERED TO REPORT TO THE SITE AND WORK ROUND THE CLOCK.



THE DAM WAS SOON READY.



BHOOTAYYA THEN HAD A MANSION BUILT ON THE RECLAIMED LAND.



SOON AFTER, BHOOTAYYA FELL SERIOUSLY ILL. ON HIS DEATH-BED—

THE VILLAGERS ARE ALL RASCALS. SHOW THEM NO MERCY. IF YOU ARE CLEVER, YOU'LL MAKE THEM WORK FOR YOU FOR NOTHING.



THAT ROGUE KEMPA HAD BORROWED A SPOONFUL OF SALT...

FATHER, PLEASE.



SEE THAT... YOU RECOVER THE... SA... LT...



THOSE WERE THE LAST WORDS OF SAHUKAR BHOOTAYYA.

THE VILLAGERS HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF.



THE DEVIL IS DEAD! THIS IS THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE.

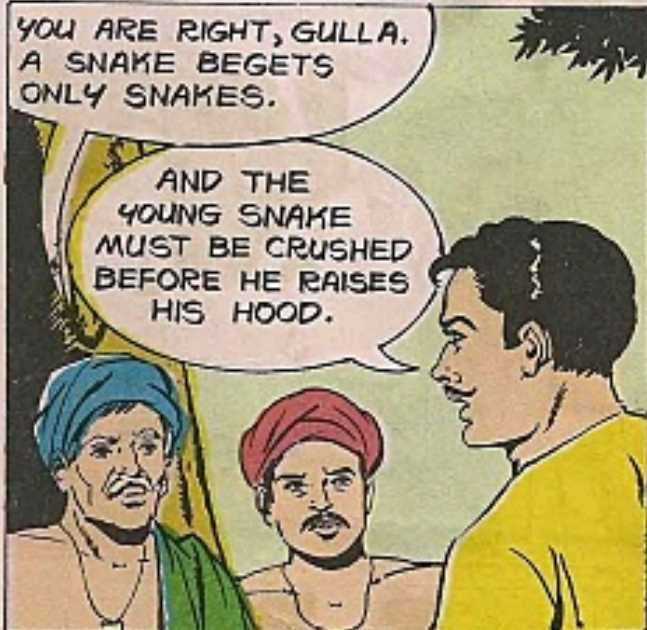
NOT YET, UNCLE. THE DEVIL IS NO DOUBT DEAD. BUT HIS SON IS STILL ALIVE.



THE SPEAKER WAS GULLA, A PROUD YOUNG FARMER.

YOU ARE RIGHT, GULLA. A SNAKE BEGETS ONLY SNAKES.

AND THE YOUNG SNAKE MUST BE CRUSHED BEFORE HE RAISES HIS HOOD.



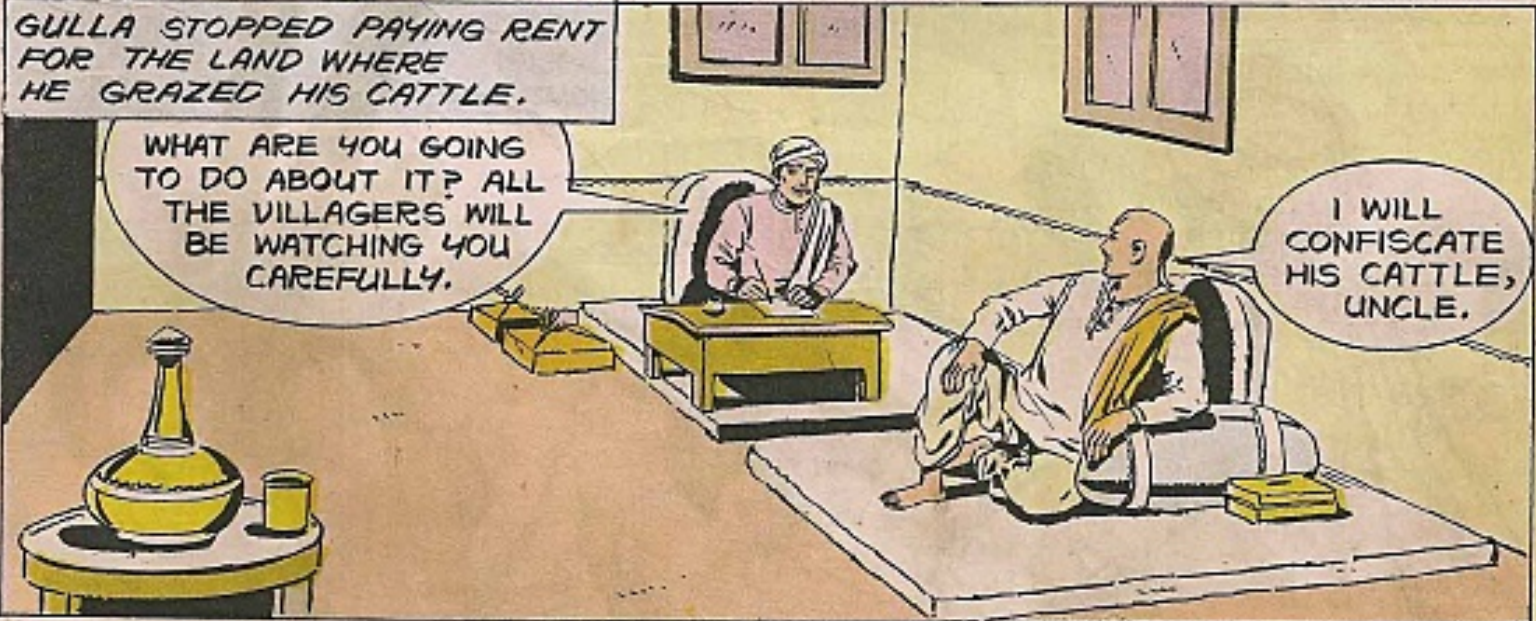
THAT IS MERE TALK, GULLA. I HEARD SUCH TALK WHEN BHOOTAYYA TERRORISED US. BUT NO ONE HAD THE GUTS TO ACT.

JUST WAIT AND SEE, UNCLE.



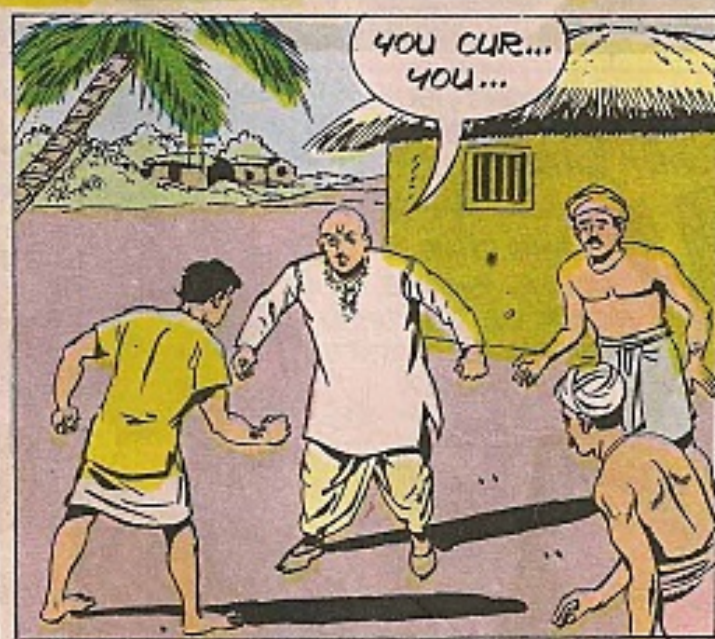
GULLA STOPPED PAYING RENT FOR THE LAND WHERE HE GRAZED HIS CATTLE.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? ALL THE VILLAGERS WILL BE WATCHING YOU CAREFULLY.



I WILL CONFISCATE HIS CATTLE, UNCLE.

EVEN AS THE CATTLE WERE BEING DRIVEN AWAY—



THE VILLAGERS HAD TO SEPARATE THE TWO.



AYYU ACTED SWIFTLY.

UNCLE, FILE TWO SUITS AGAINST GULLA— A CIVIL SUIT TO RECOVER THE MONEY HE OWES ME AND A CRIMINAL SUIT FOR ASSAULTING ME.

GOOD, AYYU. YOU ARE NOW TALKING LIKE YOUR WORTHY FATHER.

GULLA WENT TO THE CITY AND ENGAGED A LAWYER.

SIR, YOU'LL HAVE TO WIN THIS CASE FOR ME. HERE ARE FIVE HUNDRED RUPEES.

WE'LL CERTAINLY WIN THE CASE. BUT, WE WILL NEED MORE MONEY.

THE CASE DRAGGED ON. GULLA TOOK HIS WIFE'S ORNAMENTS...

...AND SOLD THEM...

...TO PAY HIS LAWYER.

THIS IS NOT ENOUGH, MY FRIEND. WE NEED MORE... MUCH MORE...

GULLA'S WIFE WAS WORRIED.



THIS MAY COST US OUR HOUSE.

I WOULDN'T MIND LOSING THE HOUSE IF I COULD SEND AYYU TO JAIL.



MEANWHILE AYYU HAD SOUGHT THE COURT'S PERMISSION TO AUCTION GULLA'S HOUSE TO COLLECT HIS DUES. AT GULLA'S HOUSE —



I'LL KILL HIM BEFORE HE AUCTIONS MY HOUSE.

OH, GOD!



THE FOLLOWING MORNING, GULLA'S WIFE RAN TO AYYU'S HOUSE.



JUST THEN AYYU WALKED IN.

SIR, PLEASE LEAVE THE VILLAGE FOR JUST ONE DAY.

WHAT FOR?







BUT IF ONLY... IF ONLY IT HADN'T BEEN THAT VILLAIN WHO SAVED YOU!

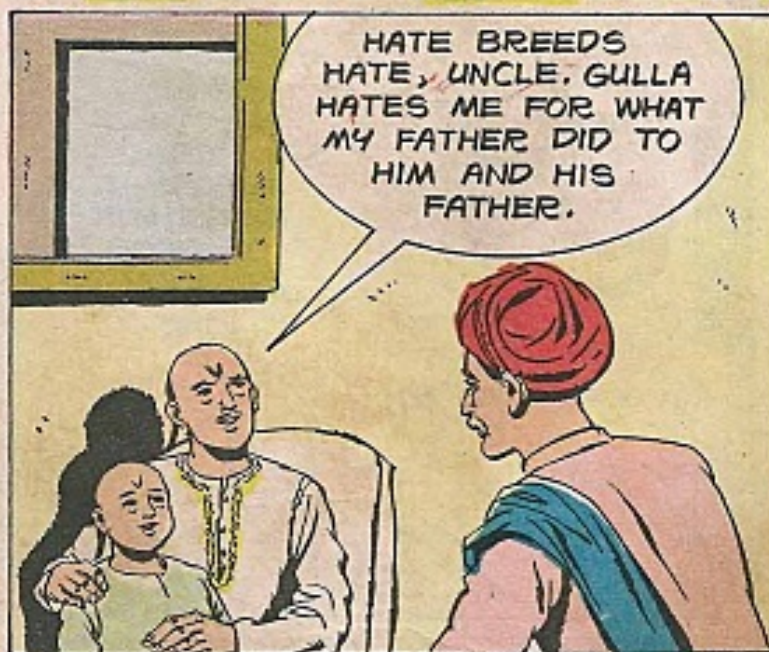


HOWEVER THE INCIDENT HAD A SOBERING EFFECT ON AYYU.

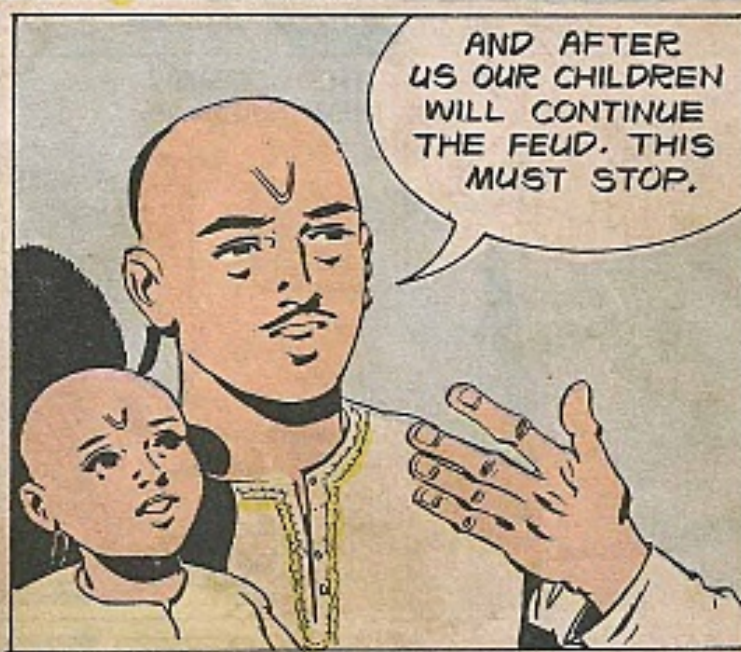
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THESE QUARRELS, UNCLE. I WANT PEACE... AND FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL.



HATE BREEDS HATE, UNCLE. GULLA HATES ME FOR WHAT MY FATHER DID TO HIM AND HIS FATHER.



AND AFTER US OUR CHILDREN WILL CONTINUE THE FEUD. THIS MUST STOP.



ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AT GULLA'S HOUSE —

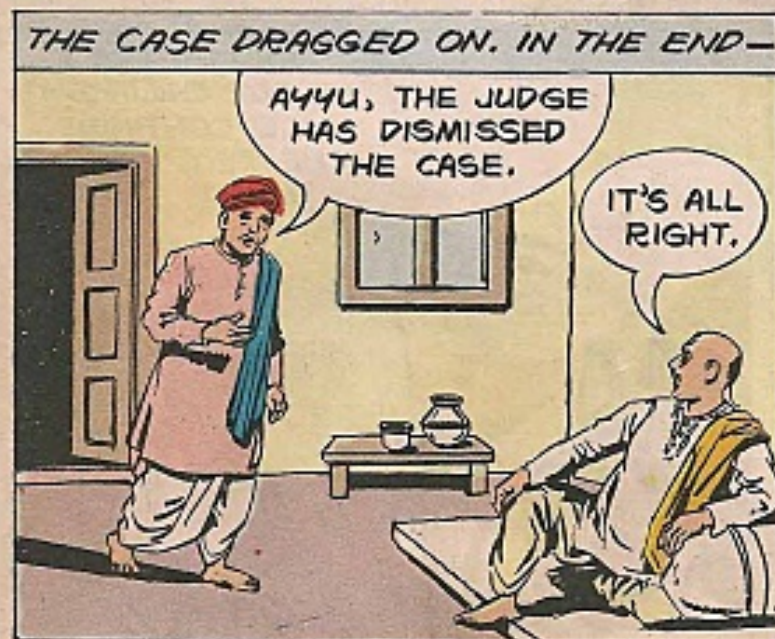
GULLA, AYYU WANTS TO WITHDRAW THE SUITS AND...

SO AYYU WANTS A COMPROMISE.

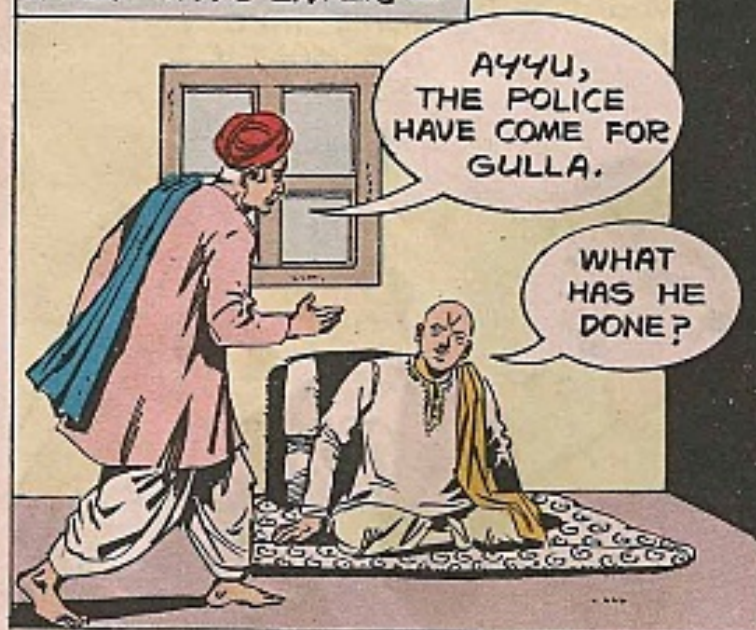


BUT I DON'T. THE COURT CASE WILL CONTINUE TILL ONE OF US IS SENT TO JAIL.





A FEW DAYS LATER—



MEANWHILE IN FRONT OF GULLA'S HOUSE—



AYYU IGNORED GULLA AND
TURNED TO THE LAWYER.



I DON'T CARE WHO
PAYS THE MONEY—
AS LONG AS I'M PAID.
THANK YOU, SIR.



THEN AYYU TURNED TO GULLA.

I KNOW HOW YOU
HATE RECEIVING
HELP FROM ME.



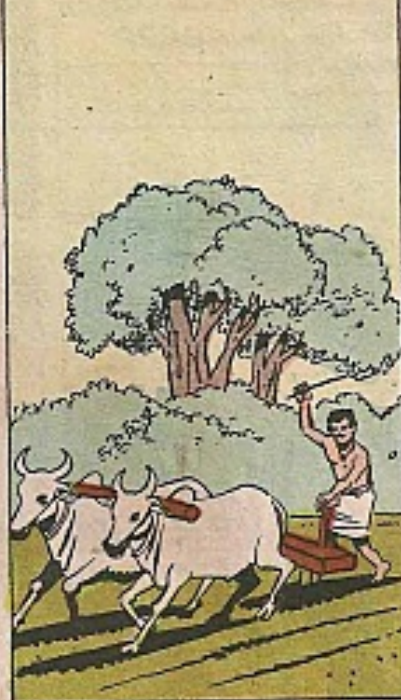
BUT I'VE NOT
GIVEN THE MONEY
AS ALMS. I'VE
GIVEN IT AS
A LOAN.



WORK FOR
ME AND I'LL
ADJUST YOUR
SALARY AGAINST
THE LOAN.



GULLA BEGAN TO WORK FOR AYYU.



I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN LIKE GULLA — A MAN AS HARDWORKING AND HONEST.

HE WORKS AS THOUGH HE IS POSSESSED.



A FEW MONTHS LATER —

GULLA, YOU HAVE CLEARED OFF YOUR DEBT TODAY.

ARE YOU SURE? I DON'T WANT ANY CHARITY FROM YOU.



I AM SURE. I'D NEED FOUR MEN TO DO THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE SINGLE-HANDED.

LET'S BE FRIENDS, GULLA. I...

NO!



WE CAN NEVER BE FRIENDS, AYYU.

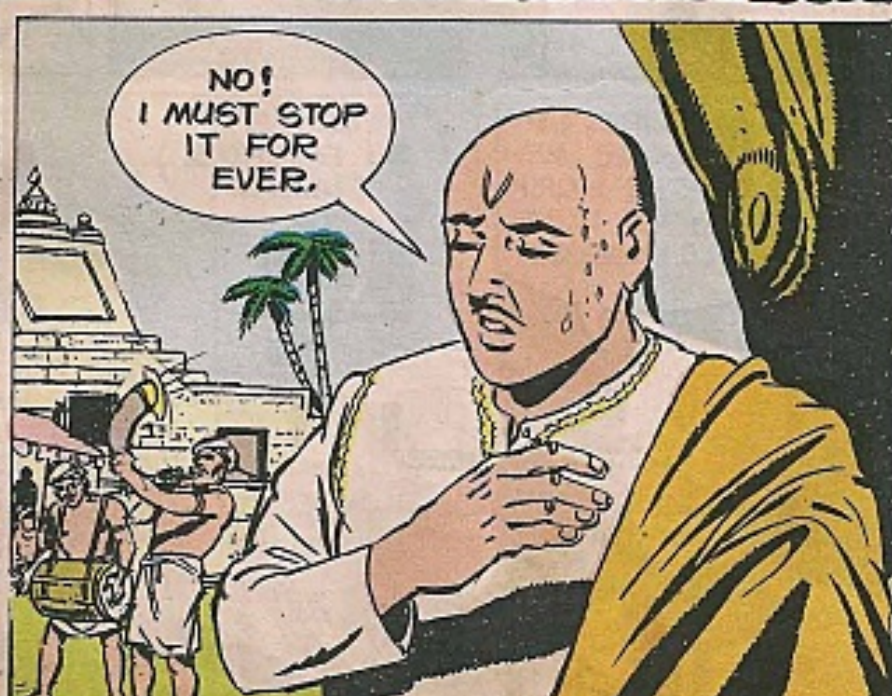
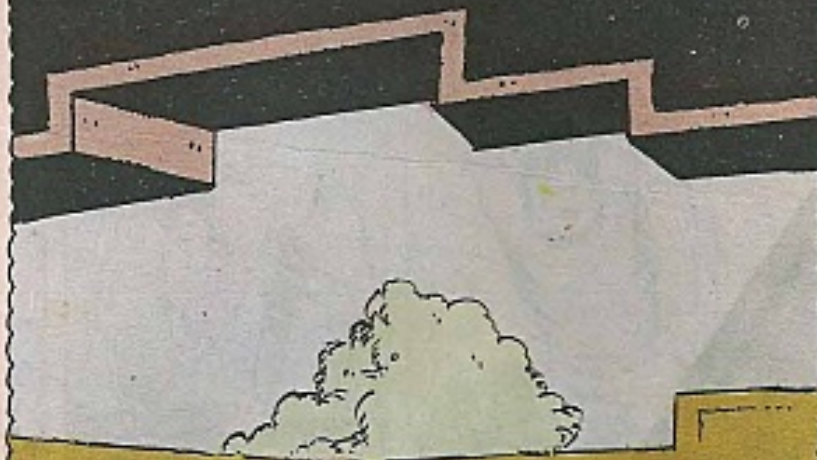


AND GULLA WALKED AWAY.

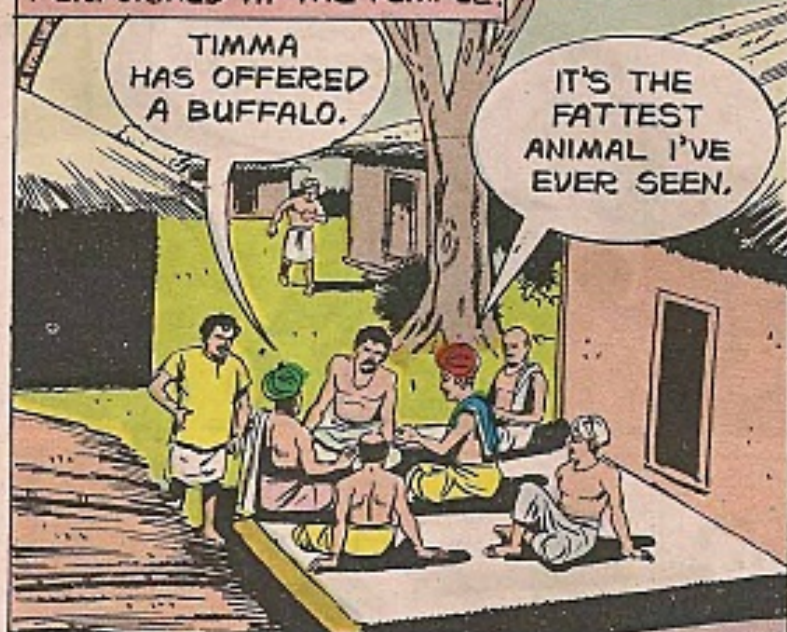
THEN CAME THE ANNUAL PUJA OF MAARIAMMA, THE VILLAGE GODDESS. AND AYYU SHIVERED AS HE HEARD THE SOUND OF THE HORN.



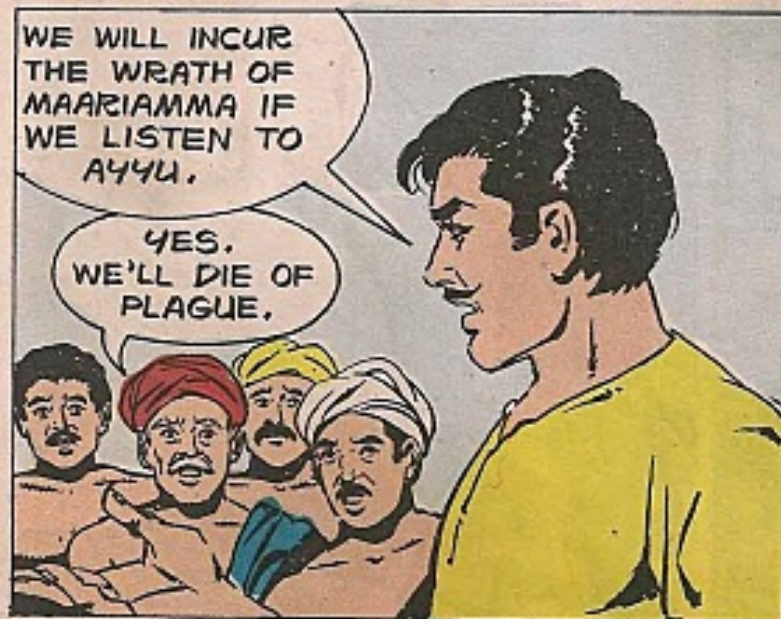
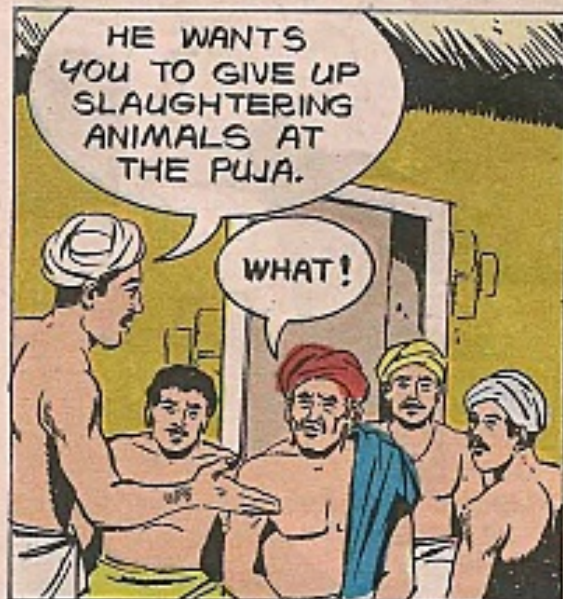
HIS MIND FLASHED BACK TO HIS CHILDHOOD.

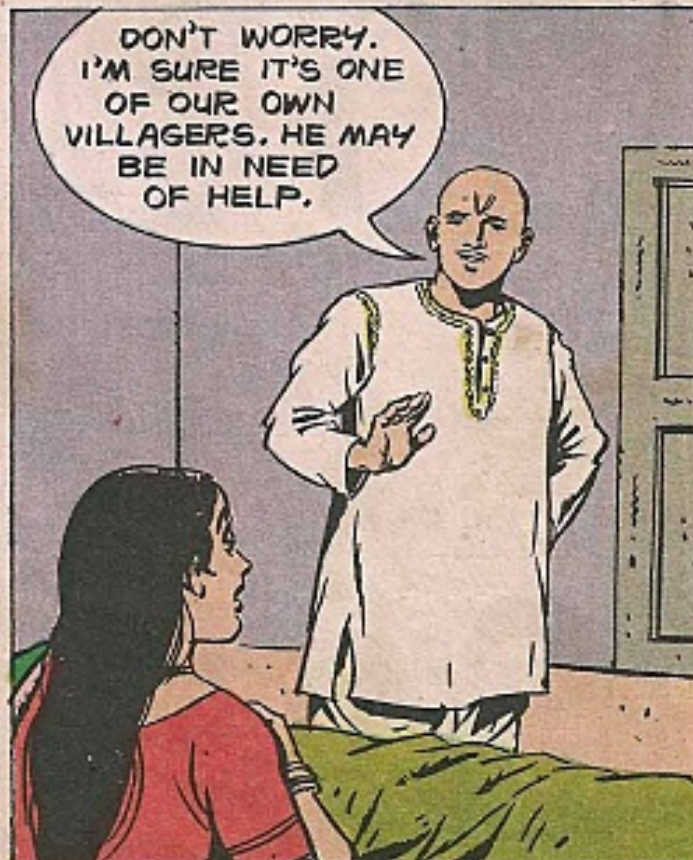
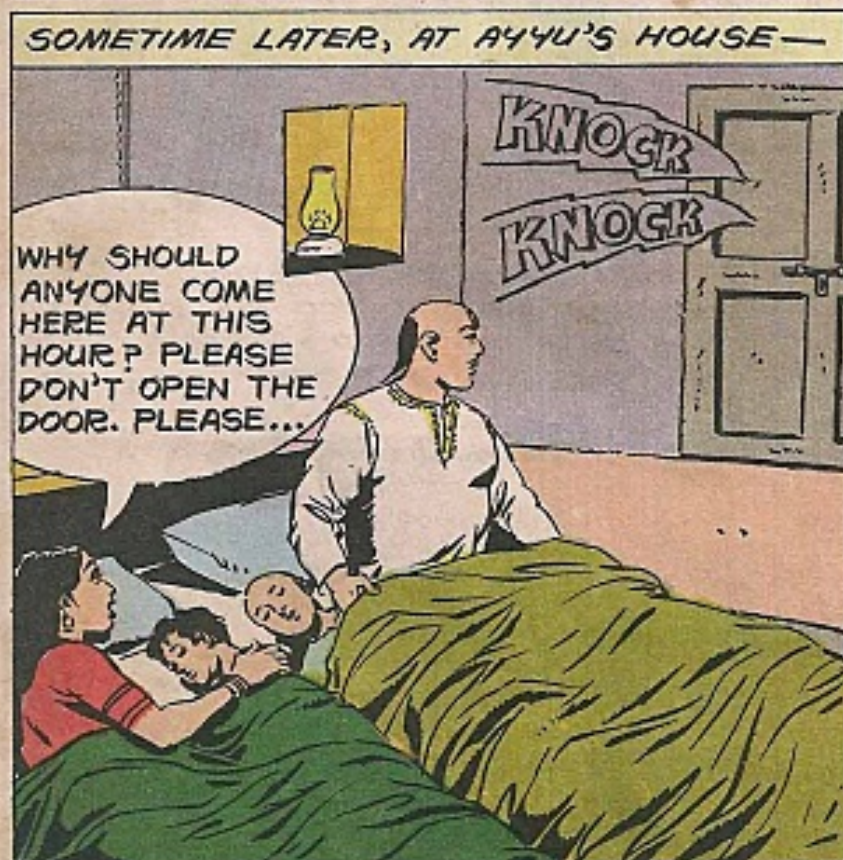


MEANWHILE ALL THE VILLAGERS HAD ASSEMBLED TO DISCUSS THE PUJA TO BE PERFORMED AT THE TEMPLE.



JUST THEN A MESSENGER CAME FROM AYYU'S HOUSE.





AYYU OPENED THE DOOR.



GULLA AND HE STARED AT EACH OTHER. NEITHER WAS WILLING TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE.



AYYU HAS A REVOLVER! ALL THESE SHEEP WILL RUN AWAY NOW.

THERE ARE FIVE BULLETS. I COULD KILL FIVE. THEN WHAT? WILL I BE THE SIXTH VICTIM?

WHY SIX CORPSES? LET THERE BE ONLY ONE — MINE.

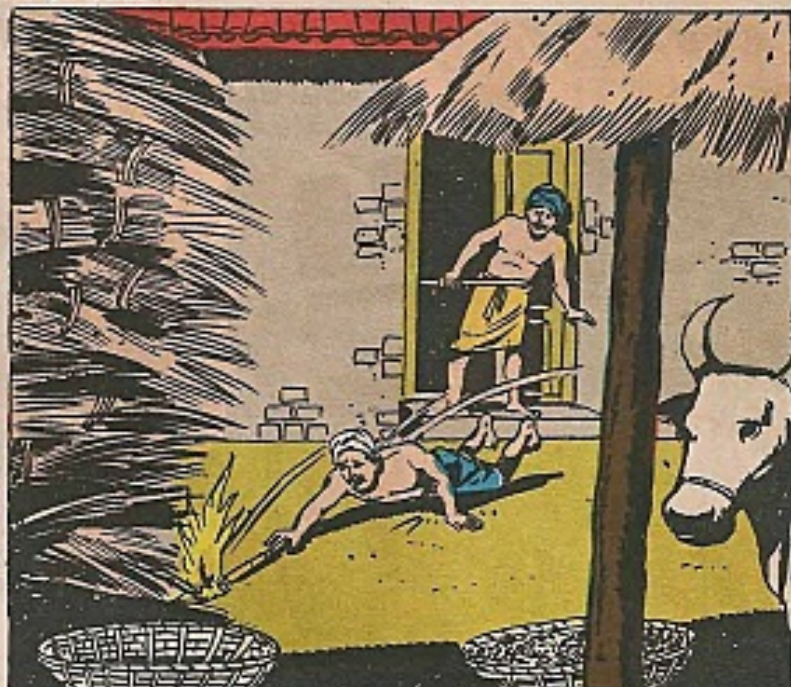


COME ON. LET'S GO IN.





MEANWHILE OUTSIDE THE HOUSE—



* FATHER



AYYU TOOK HIS FAMILY TO THE HOUSE
OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE, NEAR THE DAM.



ALTHOUGH AYYU DID NOT LODGE ANY COMPLAINT, THE NEWS REACHED THE DISTRICT POLICE. THEY CAME TO JALAHALLI.



SPEAK UP! WHO SET AYYU'S HOUSE ON FIRE?



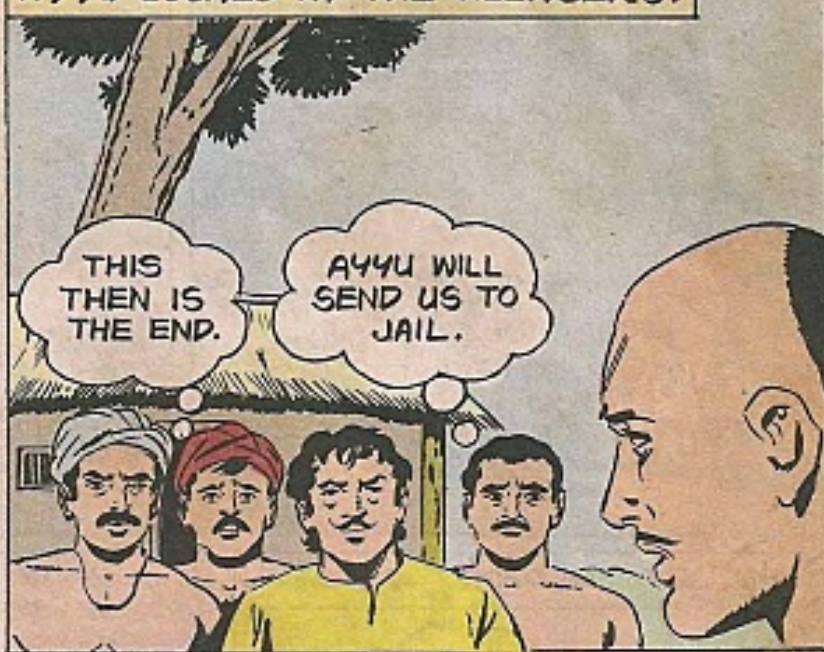
ARE YOU DEAF? OR ARE YOU MUTE? SPEAK UP!

THE INSPECTOR SENT FOR AYYU.



SHOW US THE CULPRIT, SIR. IDENTIFY THE RASCAL WHO SET YOUR HOUSE ON FIRE.

AYYU LOOKED AT THE VILLAGERS.



THIS THEN IS THE END.

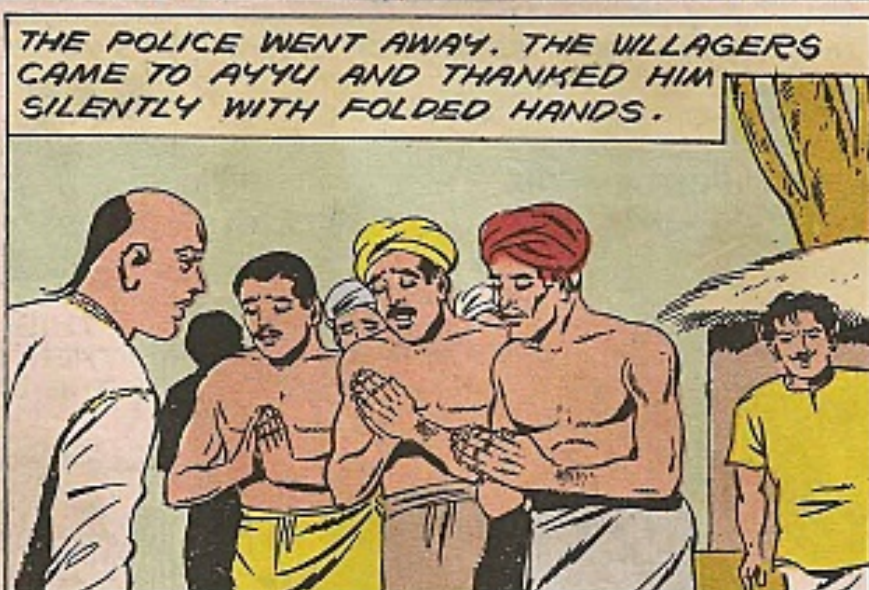
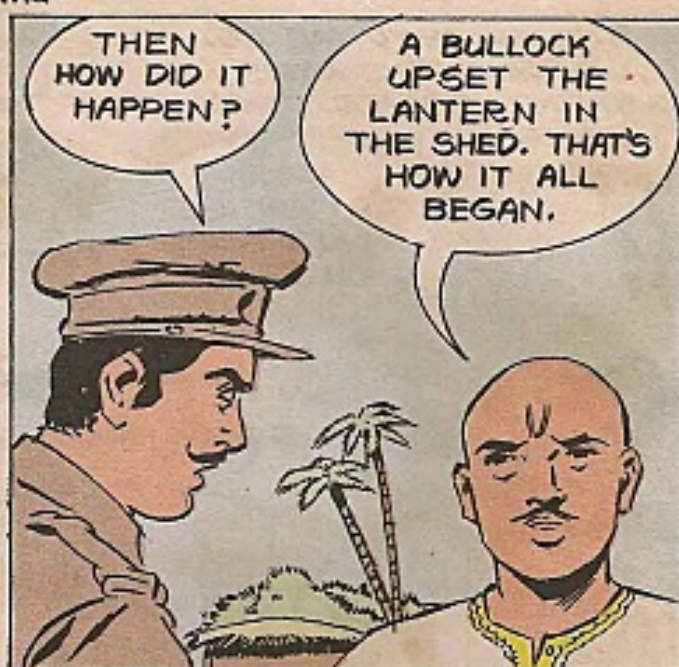
AYYU WILL SEND US TO JAIL.

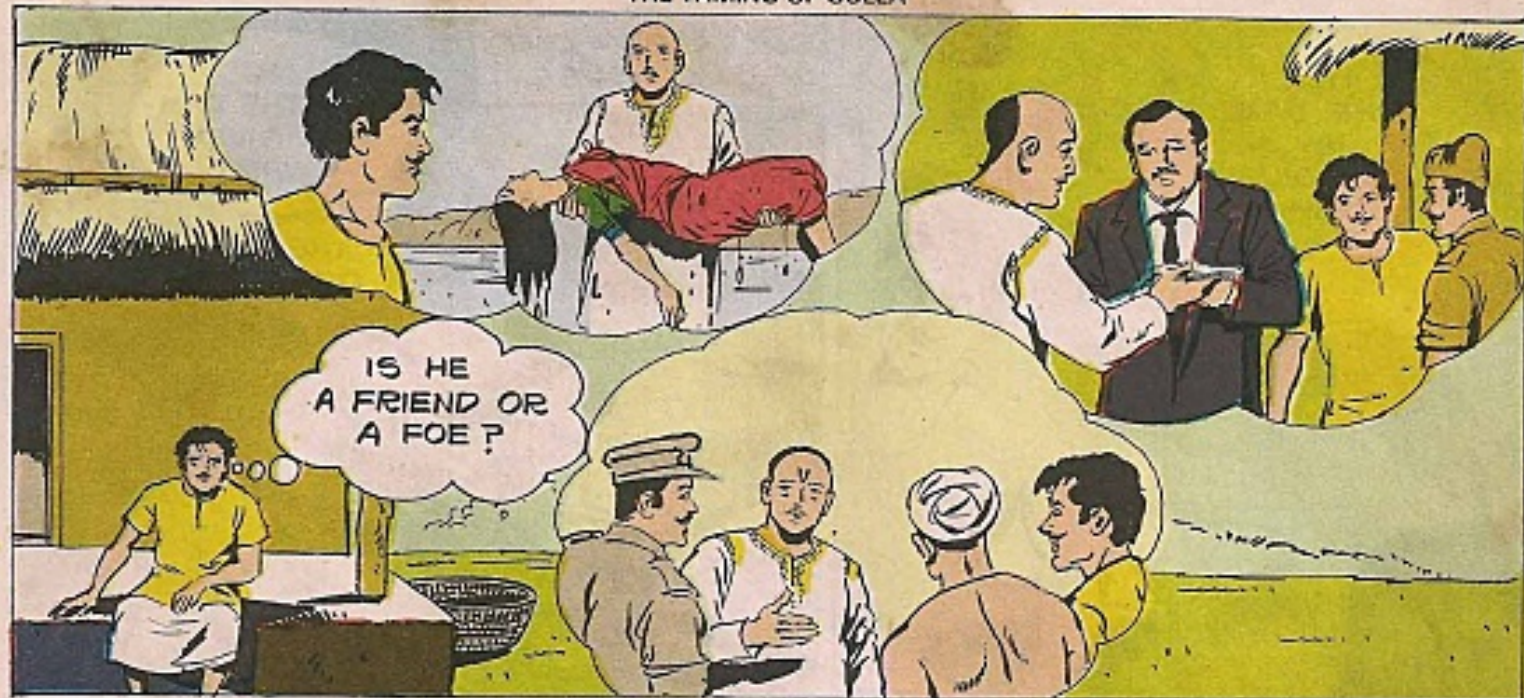


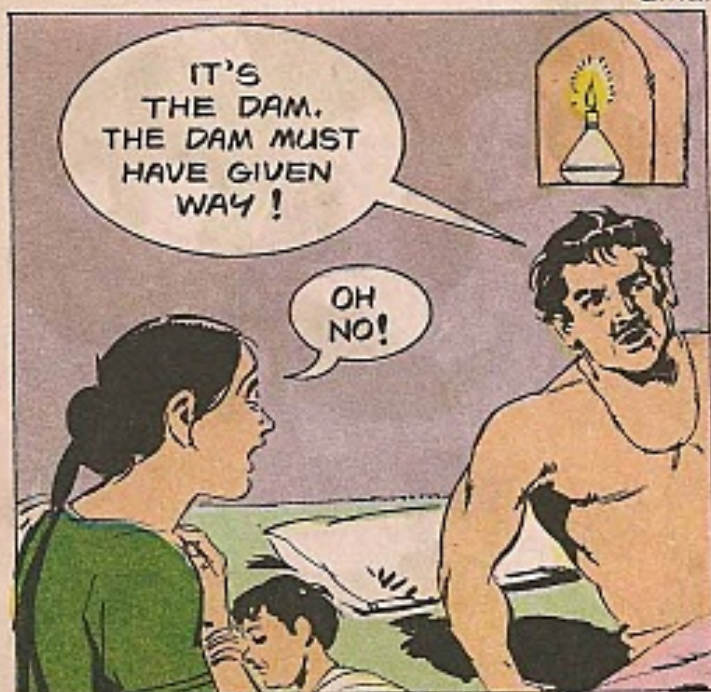
DON'T HESITATE, SIR. NAME THE CULPRITS.

INSPECTOR, WHY ARE YOU HOLDING THESE PEOPLE?

?



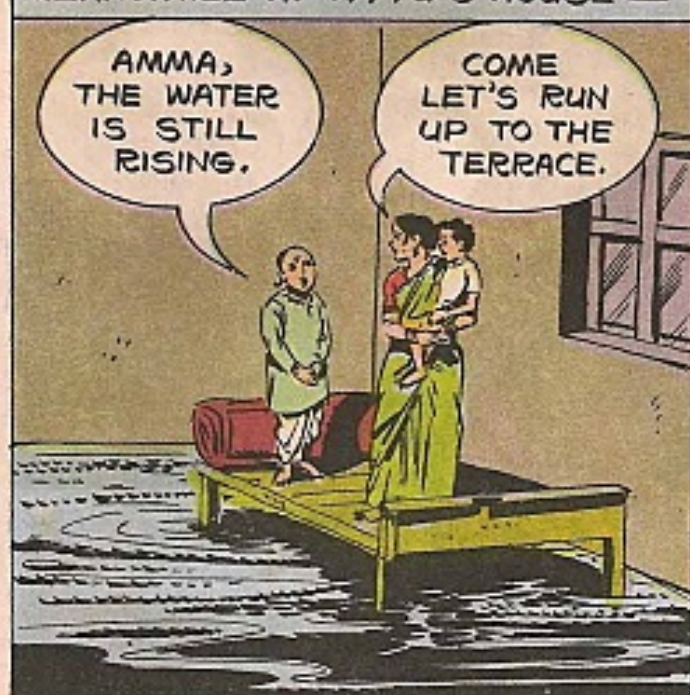




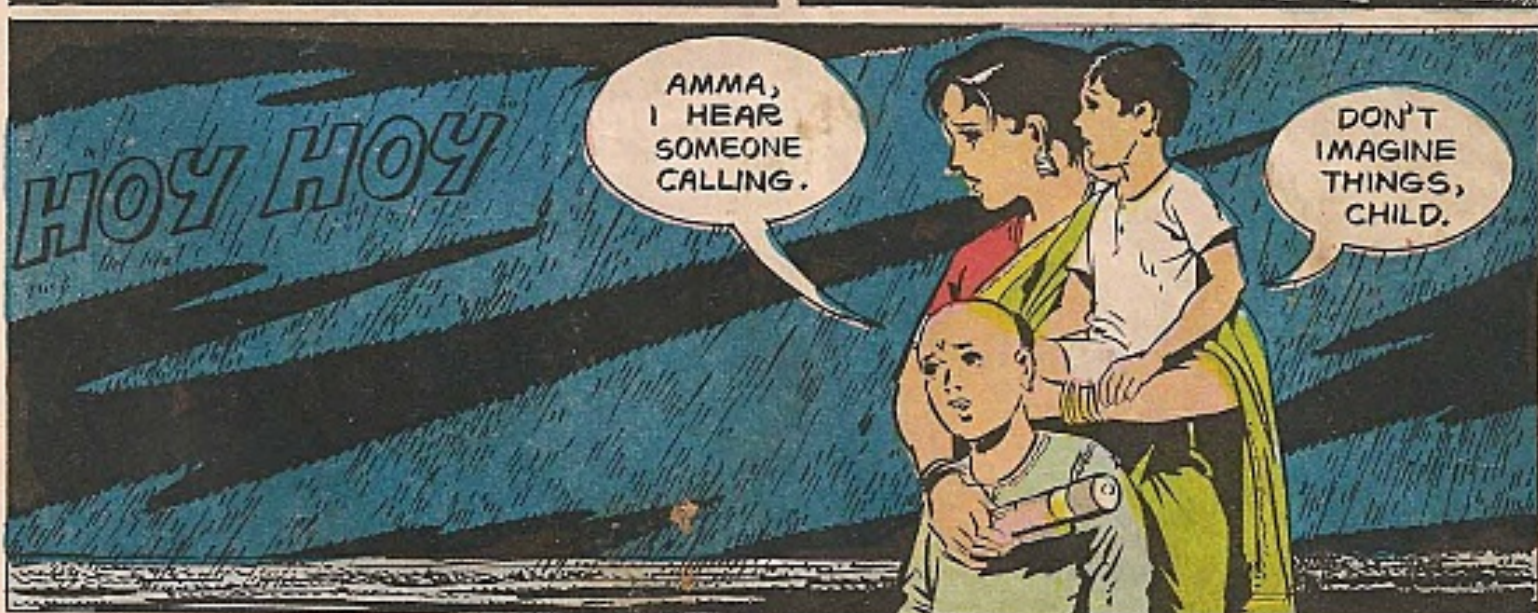
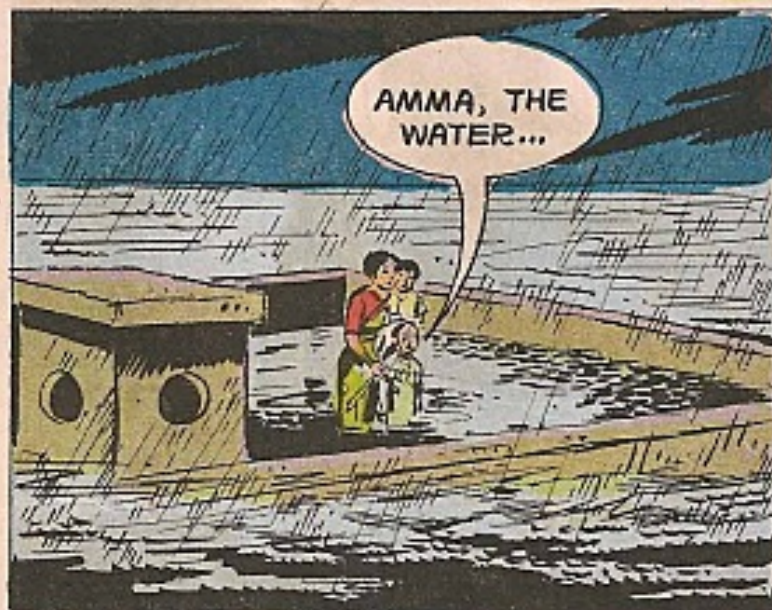
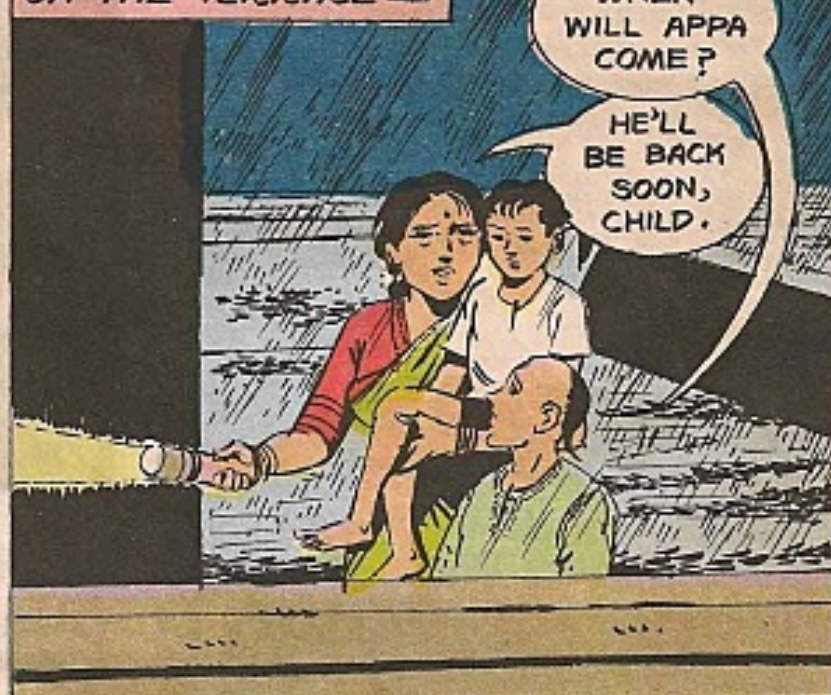
THE VILLAGERS CAME OUT OF THEIR HOUSES.



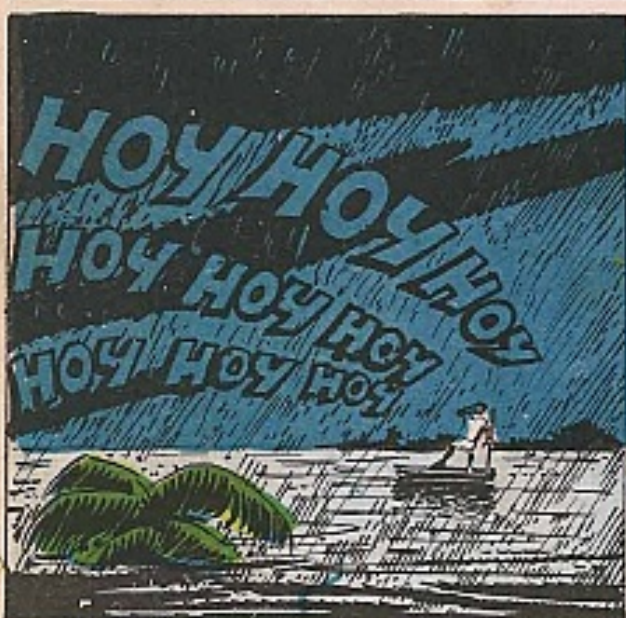
MEANWHILE AT AYYU'S HOUSE —



ON THE TERRACE —

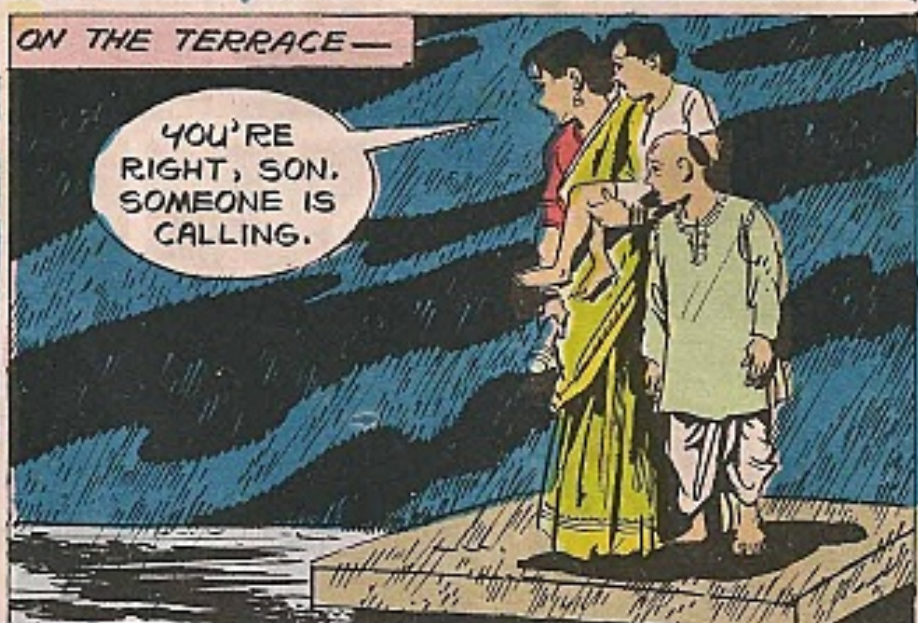


MEANWHILE, GULLA WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO KEEP HIS RAFT STEADY ON THE SWIRLING WATERS.



ON THE TERRACE —

YOU'RE RIGHT, SON. SOMEONE IS CALLING.



AYYU'S WIFE SHOUTED AT THE TOP OF HER VOICE.



SHE FLASHED THE TORCH.



AND SOON GULLA'S RAFT REACHED ITS DESTINATION.



SOON —



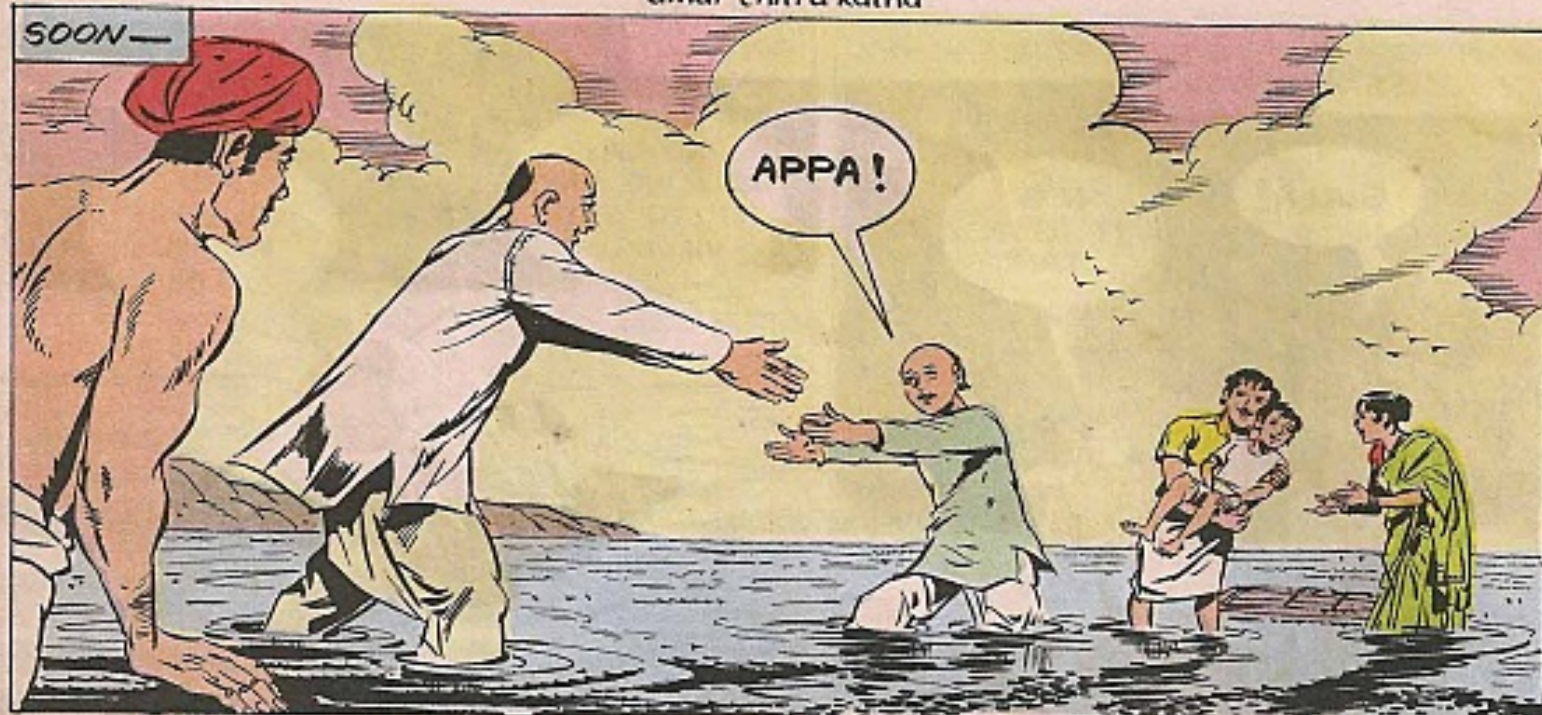
MEANWHILE AYYU HAD REACHED THE VILLAGE.



JUST THEN —



SOON—



THE NEXT MOMENT THE TWO WERE IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS.



THE VILLAGERS BUILT A NEW HOUSE FOR AYYU, GULLA BECAME AYYU'S RIGHT HAND AND THE VILLAGERS BEGAN TO WORSHIP MAARIAMMA WITH FLOWERS.





"All aboard, all aboard
My engine's on its way
We'll take Gems across the land
We'll have fun every day!"



Got a moment? Get a Gem!

Cadbury's
Chocolates

Anything's possible with Cadbury's Gems!



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HAVE YOU
HEARD THE
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50 P. MORE.

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STEADY, GO!



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DIPY THE KID IN RED ENGINE

DIPY THE KID GUARDS
A TRAINLOAD OF
SQUASHES
AND SYRUPS.



SUDDENLY...
WHOOT!



IT'S TERRIBLE
TOM'S GANG!



THEY'RE
AFTER THE
GOODIES!



LET'S
GO!



WE'LL SQUASH THEM BEFORE
THEY CATCH UP!



IT'S DIPY'S
SQUASHES
AND
SYRUPS!

COME'N
GET IT!



AFTER
HIM!

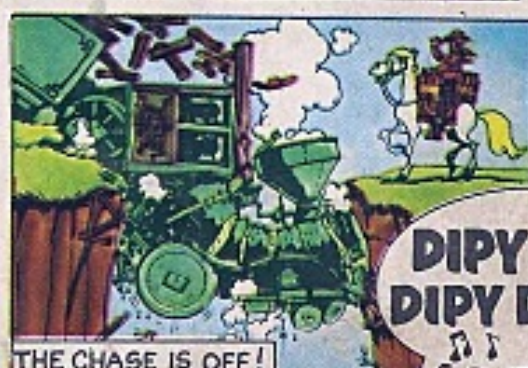


THE CHASE IS ON!



JUMP SILVER!

HANG ON TO
YOUR SYRUPS...
I MEAN STIRRUPS!



THE CHASE IS OFF!

YOU NEVER SAW A SWEETER GANG!



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and syrups for the thirstiest of
gangs! Dipy's Orange, Lemon and
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delicious syrups.

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